

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A composition comprising a soft tissue filler and a peptide copper complex.
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue filler comprises a natural material derived from animal tissue.
3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the natural material is collagen, autologous fat, hyaluronic acid, a modified form of hyaluronic acid, or a mixture thereof.
4. The composition of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue filler comprises a synthetic material.
5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the synthetic material is a low melting point paraffin, a vegetable oil, lanolin, beeswax, a silicon polymer, expanded polyfluoroethylene (Teflon<sup>®</sup>), polylactic acid, polyglutamic acid, a cellulose polymer, polymethyl methacrylate, a polymer based on polymethyl methacrylate, or a mixture thereof.
6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue filler is present at a concentration ranging from about 0.001% to about 99% by weight of the composition.
7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue filler is present at a concentration ranging from about 0.01% to about 90% by weight of the composition.
8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue filler is present at a concentration ranging from about 0.01% to about 50% by weight of the composition.

9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is alanyl-histidyl-lysine:copper(II).

10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is valyl-histidyl-lysine:copper(II).

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is glycyl-histidyl-lysine:copper(II).

12. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is L-alanyl-L-histidyl-L-lysine:copper(II), L-valyl-L-histidyl-L-lysine:copper(II) or glycyl-L-histidyl-L-lysine:copper(II).

13. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is [glycyl-histidyl-lysine-R]:copper(II), wherein R is an alkyl moiety containing from one to eighteen carbon atoms, an aryl moiety containing from six to twelve carbon atoms, an alkoxy moiety containing from one to twelve carbon atoms, or an aryloxy moiety containing from six to twelve carbon atoms

14. The composition of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of peptide to copper in the peptide copper complex ranges from about 1:1 to about 3:1.

15. The composition of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of peptide to copper in the peptide copper complex ranges from about 1:1 to about 2:1.

16. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is present at a concentration ranging from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight of the composition.

17. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is present at a concentration ranging from about 0.025% to about 1% by weight of the composition.

18. The composition of claim 1 wherein the peptide copper complex is present at a concentration ranging from about 0.05% to about 0.5% by weight of the composition.

19. The composition of claim 1 wherein the soft tissue filler and peptide copper complex, in combination, or the peptide copper complex, is encapsulated in a liposome or microsphere adapted to aid in the delivery of the peptide copper complex, or to enhance the stability of the composition.

20. The composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form of solution, thick solution, suspension, or gel.

21. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an inert and physiologically-acceptable carrier or diluent.

22. The composition of claim 21 wherein the inert and physiologically-acceptable carrier or diluent is saline or purified water.

23. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an excipient.

24. The composition of claim 23 wherein the excipient is phosphate buffered saline, bacteriostatic saline, propylene glycol, starch, sucrose, sorbitol, or a mixture thereof.

25. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a thickening agent.

26. The composition of claim 25 wherein the thickening agent is acrylamides copolymer, carbomer, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, or a mixture thereof.

27. The composition of claim 1, further comprising an emulsifying agent.

28. The composition of claim 27 wherein the emulsifying agent is caprylic/capric triglyceride, cetareth-7, cetyl alcohol, cetyl phosphate, isosteareth-11, sodium isostearate, or a mixture thereof.

29. The composition of claim 1, further comprising a preservative.

30. The composition of claim 29 wherein the preservative is benzyl alcohol, a paraben, diazolidinyl urea, DMDM hydantoin, phenoxyethanol, iodopropynyl butylcarbamate, or a mixture thereof.

31. A method for treating skin defects comprising injecting into an area of skin in need thereof an effective amount of the composition of claim 1.

32. A method for treating skin defects comprising injecting into an area of skin in need thereof an effective amount of a soft tissue filler, followed by injecting into the area an effective amount of a composition comprising peptide copper complex.

33. A method for treating skin defects comprising injecting into an area of skin in need thereof an effective amount of a soft tissue filler, followed by topically applying an effective amount of a composition comprising peptide copper complex.

34. The method of claim 33 wherein the composition comprising peptide copper complex, further comprises a sunscreen agent, a skin lightening agent, a tanning agent, a skin conditioning agent, a skin protectant, an emollient, a humectant, or a mixture thereof.